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Application No.: 09/482,725
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PATENT

REMARKS

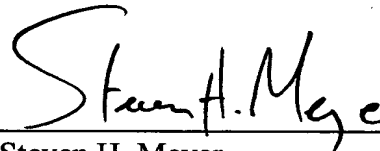
The foregoing Amendment and the following Remarks are being submitted in response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 26, 2004 (Paper No. 12), in connection with the above captioned patent application, and are being filed within the one-month shortened statutory period set for a response to the Restriction Requirement.

Claims 106-299 are pending in the present application. Claims 10-6-279 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner has set forth a Restriction Requirement under 35 USC § 121 with regard to claims 106-299 and three identified groups: Group I, including claims 106-214; Group II, including claims 215-279; and Group III, including claims 280-299. Applicants hereby elect Group III for continued prosecution at this time, including claims 280-299, without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications to further prosecute claims 106-279.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending elected claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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